

REMARKS:

This preliminary amendment is submitted in order to correct technical errors/inconsistencies, and to provide further clarification of some of the features already disclosed in the original application. No new matter has been added.

In claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, and 34, the transitional phrase "is" is amended to "comprises". Amended claims 11 and 13 depend from claim 5 instead of claim 2. Support for these amendments can be found, for example, in the specification on page 4, paragraph 18. No new matter is added by these amendments.

Amended claim 19 depends from claim 1 instead of claim 2. In claim 19, the application surface comprises a cationic biopolymer of glucosamine and the remainder of the closure pad is made of another material which is different from the material of the application surface. Support for these amendments can be found, for example, in the specification on page 6, paragraph 22. No new matter is added by these amendments.

No new matter has been added in this preliminary amendment. Also, no change has been made for any reason relating to the patentability of the invention.

ELECTION

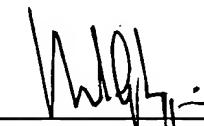
In response to the requirement for election of species made by the examiner via a telephone conference with Mark G. Lappin on March 31, 2003, the applicant hereby elects the species of claim 5 and claims 6 and 11-14 dependent thereon, for purposes of examination. The parent claims for claim 5 should be examined as well.

No additional costs are believed to be due in connection with the filing of this paper. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 and §1.17 that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-1133.

If there are any questions regarding these amendments and remarks, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 4/9/03



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